

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Canceled)

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) A latent image carrier having an electrostatic latent image corresponding to an optically formed and uniformly charged photo sensitive layer, the latent image carrier comprising:

a thin cylindrical body comprising a photosensitive outer surface for forming said latent image carrier thereon; and

a deformation preventing member disposed in an interior portion of said thin cylindrical body, said deformation preventing member further comprising:

~~A latent image carrier according to claim 1,~~

~~wherein said deformation preventing member includes a base positioned having a central axial axis substantially aligned with a central axial axis of said thin cylindrical body; and~~

~~at a shaft of said latent image carrier and at plural places of the base, and a plurality of leg parts axially disposed on said base and extending from the base along a the circumferential direction thereof, wherein of said latent image carrier with their a distal end of each one of said plurality of leg parts is ends elongated towards the an interior surface of said latent image carrier and is provided with a bulging portion configured to eapable of coming into contact with an inside surface of said latent image carrier.~~

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) [[A]] The latent image carrier according to any one of claims 1 and claim 2, wherein said deformation preventing member is twisted in the an axial

direction of said latent image carrier forming successive blade structures between axial ends
~~from one axial end of said latent image carrier thereof towards the other axial end thereof.~~

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) [[A]] The latent image carrier according to claim 3,
wherein said deformation preventing member is formed of an elastic body.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) [[A]] The latent image carrier according to claim [[1]]
2, wherein said deformation preventing member is formed of an elastic body, and a diameter
of said deformation preventing member is greater than an inner diameter of said latent image
carrier ~~upon non-elastic deformation of the deformation preventing member.~~

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) [[A]] The latent image carrier according to claim [[1]]
2, wherein said latent image carrier is formed of a rigid body.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) [[A]] The latent image carrier according to ~~any one of~~
~~claims 1 to 5~~ claim 2, wherein ~~rubber is used as~~ said deformation preventing member is made
of rubber.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
a charging device;
a cleaning device; and
a latent image carrier to effect an image forming process by said image forming
apparatus, said latent image carrier comprising:
a thin cylindrical body comprising a photosensitive outer surface for forming
said latent image carrier thereon; and

a deformation preventing member disposed in an interior portion of said thin cylindrical body, said deformation preventing member further comprising:

a base having a central axial axis substantially aligned with a central axial axis of said thin cylindrical body; and

a plurality of leg parts axially disposed on said base and extending along a circumferential direction thereof, wherein a distal end of each one of said plurality of leg parts is elongated towards an interior surface of said latent image carrier and is provided with a bulging portion configured to coming into contact with an inside surface of said latent image carrier

~~a latent image carrier to which image forming process is effected by said image forming apparatus;~~

~~a thin cylindrical body for forming said latent image carrier; and~~

~~deformation preventing member disposed in the interior portion of said thin cylindrical body along circumferential and axial directions thereof.~~